

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/090,861

Applicant(s)

GORONZY ET AL.

Examiner

Donald L. Storm

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to AMENDMENT filed May 10, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18 and 21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Donald L. Storm *DL*
Examiner, Dv 2626

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Andrew T. Harry, Applicant's Representative of Record, on June 8, 2006.

2. IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 1, line beginning *providing at least*, change "variant" to --variants--.

In claim 3, line 1, change "sep" to --step--.

In claim 12, line 2, delete "in each case".

In claim 13, line 2, change "APR)" to --(APR)--.

Cancel claim 19.

Add new claim as follows:

21. System for recognizing speech, comprising:

means for providing a pronunciation space (PS) including possible pronunciation rules and/or sets thereof, wherein said pronunciation space (PS) includes an approximate set of pronunciation rules (APR) determined and/or generated in accordance with a current pronunciation (CP) of a current speaker, and

means for providing at least one current lexicon (CL) or a dictionary of pronunciation variants, which is employed for recognition, adapted to said current speaker by applying said approximate set of pronunciation rules (APR) to it, thereby including speaker specific pronunciation variants to said current lexicon (CL);

means for projecting said current pronunciation (CP) into said pronunciation space (PS);

means for calculating distance values (d_1, \dots, d_4) with respect to Eigenpronunciations (E_1, \dots, E_4);

means for determining a lowest distance value (d_4); and

means for choosing a set of pronunciation rules as said approximate set of pronunciation rules APR which correspond to the Eigenpronunciations (E_4) being assigned to said lowest distance value (d_4).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-18 and 21 are allowed. The claims have been renumbered for printing to be claims 1-18 and 19.

Response to Arguments

3. The prior Office action, mailed February 10, 2006, objects to the specification and claims, and rejects claims under 35 USC § 112, § 101, and § 103, citing Larkey and Nitta in combination. The Applicant's arguments and changes in AMENDMENT, filed May 10, 2006, have been fully considered with the following results.

4. With respect to objection to the specification as lacking proper antecedence for claimed matter, the changes entered by amendment claim subject matter that can be identified in the specification. Accordingly, the objection is removed.

5. With respect to objection to the manner of making amendments to the claims, the changes entered by amendment provide clearer descriptions of their status. Accordingly, the objections are removed.

6. With respect to objection to those claims needing clarification, the changes entered by amendment provide clear descriptions of the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, the objections are removed.

7. With respect to rejection of claims under 35 USC § 112 as lacking description in the disclosure as filed, the changes entered by amendment claim subject matter that can be identified in the specification as filed. Accordingly, the rejections are removed.

8. With respect to rejection of claims under 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite, the changes entered by amendment provide clear descriptions of the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, the rejection is removed.

9. With respect to rejections of claims under 35 USC § 101, the rejections no longer apply because the claim has been canceled.

10. With respect to rejections of claims under 35 USC § 103, the rejections no longer apply because the claim has been canceled.

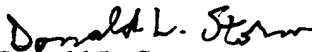
***** **IMPORTANT NOTICE** *****

The Examiner handling this application, who was assigned to Art Unit 2654, is assigned to **DIVISION 2626** as a result of consolidation in Technology Center 2600. Please include the new Division in the caption or heading of any communication. Your cooperation in this matter will assist in the timely processing of the submission and is appreciated by the Office.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L. Storm, of Division 2626, whose telephone number is (571) 272-7614. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM Eastern Time. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272-7602.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Inquiries regarding the status of submissions relating to an application or questions on the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 571-272-4100 between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST, or by e-mail at: ebc@uspto.gov. For general information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

June 8, 2006


Donald L. Storm
Examiner, Division 2626